GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1240
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
EXPORT OF ORGANIC FOODS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of organic foods has not picked up under APEDA;

(b) whether despite a vast expertise, APEDA is encouraging organic certification for exports;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have been a recent book entitled `Alternatives to Pesticides in tropical countries` from Vigyan Prasar by a noted scientist, which deals with this problem across the world;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a Task Force to implement various pragmatic findings in the above Book; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) (b) & c): No, Sir. The role of APEDA is to promote the export of agricultural and processed food items which includes organically produced items also. No separate data on exports of organic products has been maintained. However, from available information, exports of organic food items handled by APEDA hasincreased from an estimated Rs.26.06 lakhs in 1998-99 to an estimated level of about Rs.2.82 crores during 1999-2000; Organic production and its commercial marketing is comparatively a new area for interest commercially. The exports of organic products in the international markets requires certification by recognized bodies. Since a well developed certification system for organic products has not been in place in India to meet the international requirements, APEDA and other commodity Boards promoting the reports of organic products are in the process of developing a certification system for organic exports.

(d) : The book published by Vigyan Prasar titled `Alternatives to Pesticides in Tropical Countries` does not specifically deal with the problem of export of organic food not picking up under APEDA or encouraging the organic certification for exports.

(e) : There is no specific proposal for setting up a Task Force.

f) : Does not arise.